



**ENGLISH**

# American Tapestry

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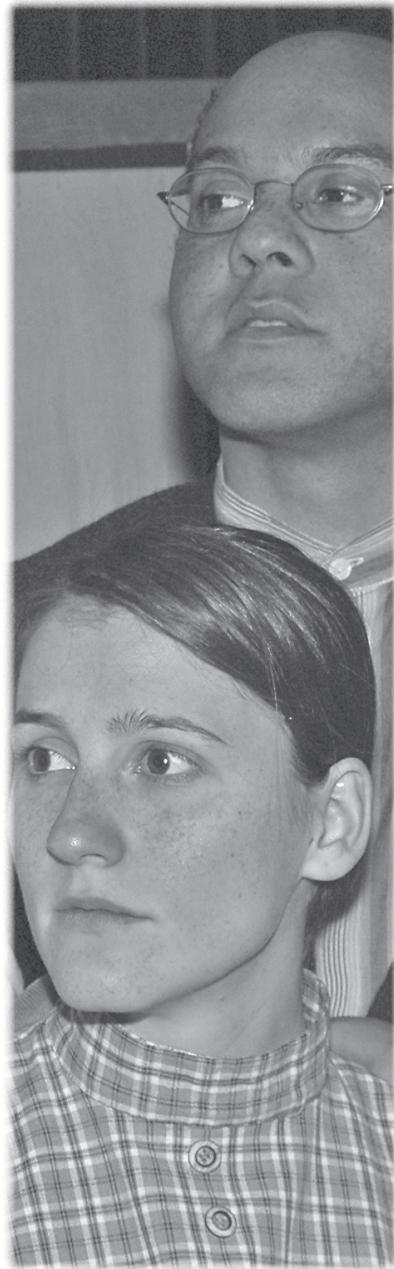


**American Tapestry:****Immigrant Children of the Bread and Roses Strike**

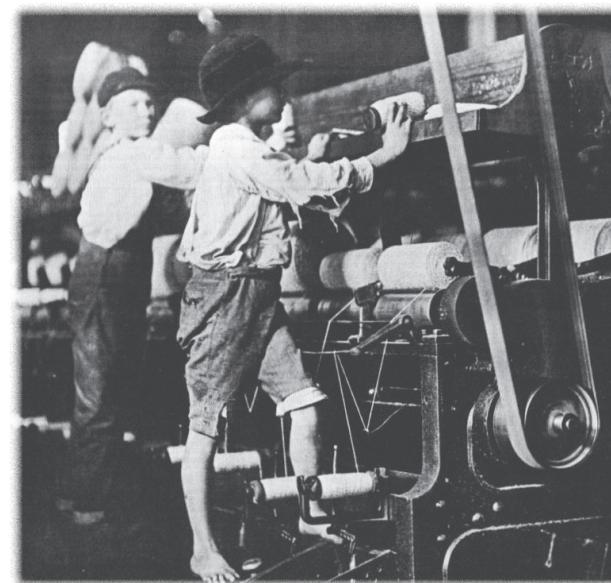
In January of 1912, a Massachusetts labor law reduced the workweek from fifty-six to fifty-four hours. Mill owners reduced the salaries of struggling men, women and children who lived and worked under miserable conditions. The pay reduction increased tensions between workers and mill owners. As a result, thousands of immigrant workers speaking twenty-five different languages joined forces to fight for justice in what was later known as the Bread and Roses Strike. The workers' demands were: A pay increase of 15%, overtime pay for people who work more than 54 hours per week, and no punishment of workers who went on strike after they returned to their jobs.

The winter strike meant that workers had little money for food and other necessities. In February, families attempted to relocate some of the children from Lawrence to other cities for their health and safety. Violence between strikers and local police reached a dangerous level. In one clash, police used brutal force to prevent parents from putting their children on a train to Philadelphia. In March of 1912, a Congressional investigation into conditions at the mills was launched and a delegation of child strikers from Lawrence testified in Washington D.C.

At the hearing, strikers testified about the poor working and living conditions in Lawrence, and asked that the mill owners grant their demands. Representatives from the mills testified that workers were paid fairly, according to their skill level. They argued that mill owners couldn't afford to pay their workers more, and if they were forced to do so the mills would go out of business, leaving thousands of workers unemployed. They claimed that union leaders from outside of Lawrence started the strike, and that many workers were intimidated to join once it started.

**Kontribisyon timoun nan “Bread and Roses Strike”**

Lan mwa janvye 1912, Leta Massachusett pase yon lwa ki redwi tan tavay nan yon semèn de 56 zè a 54 trè. Patwon izin ak faktori koupe nan lajan gason vanyan, fannm ak timoun tap touche. Moun sa yo te déjà ap viv nan de kondisyon mizerab. Rediksyon salè sa-a mete plis tansyon nan mitan patwon izin yo ak ouvriye. Konsa, plizyè milye travayè imigre ki pale plis ke 35 lang diferan, mete tèt yo ansanm pou yo jwen jistis nan sa listwa pral rele « Bread and Roses Strike ». Ouvriye yo te mande ogmantasyon 15% sou salè yo. Plis lajan pou moun ki travay plis ke 54 trè (ovètay) epi ankò pou patwon yo pa fè represay sou moun ki te patisipe nan grèv la lè yo tounen nan travay.



(Kongrè) bay lòd pou yo fè yon envestigasyon sou kondisyon travay nan moulen ak faktori yo. Yon delegasyon, fòme de timoun ki te lan grèv la, temwaye devan Kongrè nan Washington D.C.

Delegasyon sa-a te rapòte kouman kondisyon travay yo te difisil epi kouman lavi pa twò miyò. Jenn grevis yo te mande pou yo jwenn satisfaksiyon nan doleyans yo. Moun ki reprezante patwon yo te vin temwaye tou. Yo fè konnen, ouvriye yo touche selon sa yap fè nan travay la. Yo di tou, patwon yo pa kapab peye plis lajan. Si yo ta fòse yo fè sa, yo ka fè fayit. Lè sa-a, bagay yo ap pi di pou plizyè milye ouvriye kap tonbe nan chomaj. Yo pale tou, ke chèf sendika nan lòt vil koumase zafè grèv sa a. Anpil travayè pa te vle jwenn mouvman lè l te koumanse.

Yon grèv nan peryòd ivè (janvye, fevriye) vle di ouvriye yo pa gen anpil lajan pou yo achete manje ak lòt bagay yo bezwen. Lè mwa fevriye mete pye, anpil fanmi voye pitit yo nan lòt vil pou pwoteje sante ak sekirite yo . Vyolangs lan mitan grevis ak lapolis vin grav anpil. Nan yon afrontman, lapolis itilize fòs brital pou l ampeche manman ak papa ambake pitit yo nan yon tren pou Philadelphia. An mas 1912, Lachanm Etazini

**American Tapestry**

**American Tapestry** transports audiences to the Congressional hearings of March 1912. As members of the Congressional committee charged with investigating conditions in Lawrence, you will decide how to end the strike and improve conditions for working families. You will witness key moments of these dramatic events, question witnesses, sift through conflicting testimony, debate the issues with your classmates, and vote on a solution.

**Questions to consider**

- Should companies be held responsible for the health and well-being of their workers? If so, under what condition? If not, why?
- Is it fair for people from outside of a community to put workers' livelihood at risk for a larger cause?
- How are children and other vulnerable people affected by a wide-spread conflict such as the Bread and Roses strike?
- Should people give up on a strike when it affects the health and safety of their family?
- How can opposing sides work together to resolve a conflict?

<b>Arguments for Workers</b>	<b>Arguments for Mill Owners</b>

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Tavayè an grèv te pote doleyans yo devan kongrè lan mwa mas 1912. Inajine ou se yon manm Kongrè ki genyen pou misyon pou l fè yon envestigasyon sou kondisyon travay nan vil Lawrence. Wap gen pou deside kouman w ka kampe grèv sa a epi fè kondisyon lavi yo vin miyò pou fanmi k'ap tavay yo. Ou pwal viv de moman enpòtan nan gwo evenman sa-a, w'ap kapab pose temwen yo keksyon, brase lide avèk lòt elèv yo, epi vote pou yon solisyon.

**Kèk keksyon ou kapab pozé ?**

- Eske nou kapab rann izin ak faktori responsab pwoblèm sante ak byennèt ouvriye yo ? Siwi, lan ki kondisyon ? Sinon, poukisa ?
- Eske l kòrèk pou moun kap viv andeyò yon kominate mete tout kominate sa a andanje pou fè sitiyasyon jeneral popilasyon vin pi miyò.
- Kouman yon sitiyasyon takou gwo grèv sa a kapab afekte timoun ak lòt moun ki san defans ?
- Eske nou dwe kanpe yon grèv si l afekte sante ak sekirite fanmi nou ?
- Kouman de pati ak opinyon diferan kapab travay ansanm pou rezoud yon pwoblem ?

<b>Pozisyon Travayè yo</b>	<b>Pozisyon Patwon yo</b>

**January 1, 1912:** The Massachusetts legislature passes a new labor law reducing the work week from 56 hours to 54. To make up for the loss of profits, Mill owners in Lawrence and elsewhere decide to decrease weekly wages and speed up their machines.

**January 12, 1912:** A strike is officially declared at the Lawrence mills in response to the decrease in wages and the unsafe working conditions created by faster machines.

**January 13, 1912:** Lawrence's Mayor deputizes 20 firemen as police officers. By the following week, approximately 800 men served as a militia.

**January 20, 1912:** Packages containing dynamite are found in three Lawrence locations. A Syrian man linked to the mill workers is arrested as the mastermind of the dynamite plot. It is later discovered that the former mayor's son John Breen planted the dynamite to make it appear as though the strikers were using violence.

**January 26, 1912:** Mill owner William Wood agrees to meet with strike leader Joseph Ettor to discuss strikers' demands.

**January 29, 1912:** Anna LoPizzo, age 33, is killed by a stray bullet while passing a clash between strikers and police near her home.

**February 10, 1912:** Elizabeth Gurley Flynn helps arrange for 150 children to be sent to live with sympathetic families who live in other states. The children arrive safely in New York and Vermont.

**February 24, 1912:** Armed militia and police gather at the train station to prevent striking families from putting another group of children on a train to Boston and Philadelphia. Police arrest 15 of the 46 children present and several parents.

**February 26, 1912:** As a result of press coverage of the violence at the train station, the House Committee on Rules decides to investigate the strike. Representatives from both sides of the conflict are called to testify.

#### Timeline Reflection Questions

1. What were some of the reasons for the Lawrence strike?
  
2. List three things that happened as a result of the strike.
  
3. How were children affected by the strike?
  
4. Why were some people suspicious of the striking workers?

**1e janvye 1912:** Lachann nan eta Massachusett pase yon lwa ki redwi tan tavay nan yon semèn de 56 zè a 54 trè. Patwon izin ak faktori deside pou yo bese kòb ouvriye touche chak semen epi fè machin yo travay pi vit pou yo kapab rejwenn sa yo pèdi a.

**12 janvye 1912 :** Yon kokenchenn grèv eklate nan yon izin, nan yon vil yo rele Lawrence. Mouvman grèv sa a te yon reyaksyon ouvriye yo apre ke patwon te bese lajan yap touche nan move kondisyon travay ak machin ka fonksyone a plen randman.

**13 janvye 1912 :** Majistra vil la anrole ven (20) ponpye nan lapolis. Nan yon semèn, te gen yon group 800 volontè pare pou mete lòd nan dezòd.

**20 janvye, 1912:** Yo jwenn dinamit nan twa kote nan vil Lawrence. Yon Siryen, ki genlè te gen relasyon ak travayè izin yo, jwenn arrestasyon l tankou mèt zafè konplotaj dinamit sa-a. Men pi ta, yo jwenn ke se yon ansyen majistra vil la, John Breen, ki te kache dinamit yo la pou l fè moun panse ke ouvriye yo tap itilize yolans.

**26 janvye 1912:** Yon pwopriyetè faktori, William Wood, dakò pou l rankontre lidè grèv la, Joseph Ettor, pou yo diskite doleyans travayè yo.

**29 janvye 1912:** Anna LoPizzo, yon fanm ki te gen 30 rekòt kafe sou tèt li, jwenn lanmò l tou pre lakay li. Li pran plizyè bal pandan l tap pase pre yon mare kòn grevis ak lapolis.

**10 fevriye 1912:** Elizabeth Gurley Flynn ede òganize yon voyaj pou 150 timoun al viv, pou yon tan, nan lòt eta kote de fanmi te pote yo volontè pou resevwa timoun yo lakay pa yo. Timoun sa yo te rive san pwoblèm nan leta New York ak nan eta Vermont.

**24 fevriye 1912:** Sivil ak gwo zam ak lapolis reyini lan stasyon tren pou ampeche yon lòt gwoup timoun al Boston ak Philadelphia. Lapolis arete 15 nan 45 timoun kit e la yo. Yo pran kèk paran tou.

**26 fevriye 1912:** Evenman ki pase nan stasyon tren an fè ke yon komite depite nan Lachann etazini deside pou l ouvè yon envestigasyon sou sikontans trajik ki entoure gwo grèv sa-a. Yo rele reprezantan de pati yo vin temwaye devan komite a.

#### Keksyon pou ede n reflechi sou kronoloji evenman yo

1. Pouki rezon grèv la te koumanse nan vil Lawrence ?
  
2. Fè yon list 3 bagay ki rive akòz grèv la?
  
3. Kouman grèv sa-a te aji sou timoun yo ?
  
4. Poukisa moun te sispèk travayè ki tap fè grèv yo ?

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**American Federation of Labor (AFL):** one of the first labor unions in the United States, formed in 1886 under the leadership of Samuel Gompers. Women, former slaves, and immigrants were not allowed to join the union.

**Anarchist:** a person who believes in the elimination of government in favor of a social system based on voluntary cooperation.

**Exodus:** the departure of a large number of people. This term was used to describe the movement of the Lawrence children to New York City during the Bread and Roses Strike.

**Foreman:** a person in charge of a department or group of people in a factory.

**Industrial Workers of the World (IWW):** also known as the Wobblies, this labor union provided support and leadership to the Lawrence strikers in 1912, and particularly reached out to immigrants and their families.

**Labor Union:** an organization formed for the purpose of maintaining fair wages, benefits, and good working conditions.

**Militia:** a group of volunteer citizens enrolled as soldiers, who are called upon during a time of emergency.

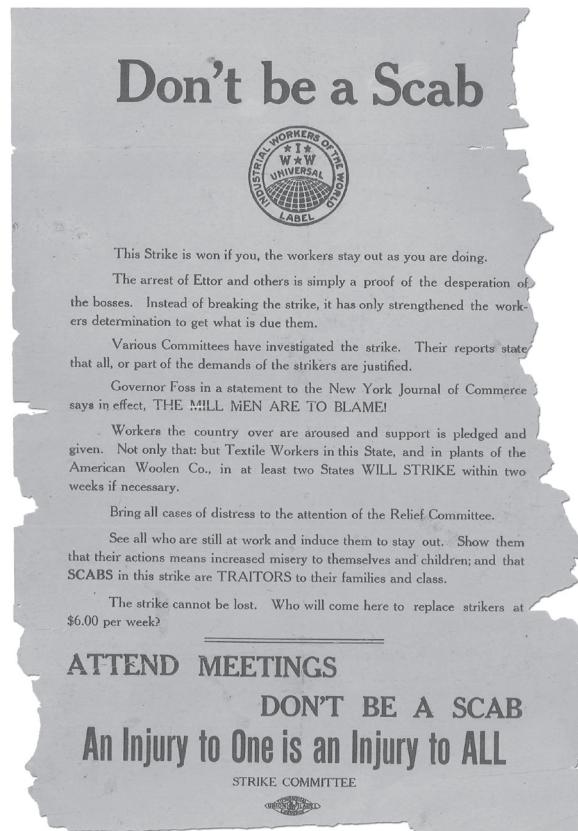
**Overtime:** work done beyond an employee's regular working hours.

**Picket Line:** a line of strikers or protesters outside a place of business. This tactic was used for the first time in New England during the Bread and Roses Strike.

**Scab:** a worker who refuses to join a labor union, participate in a strike, and takes a striking worker's place on the job.

**Strike:** to suspend work until employees' demands are met.

**Wage:** the amount of money an employee is paid, usually per hour.

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**American Federation of Labor (AFL):** Younan premye sendika travayè nan peyi Etazini, li te fonde an 1886 avek nan tèt li yon mousye yo te rele Samuel Gompers. Fanm, ansyen esklav ak imigran pa t gen dwa antre nan sendika.

**Anachis :** Yon moun ki kwè pa fèt pou gen gouvènman nan yon peyi. Li plis kwè nan yon sistèm sosyal ki ta pran rasin nan koperasyon ak volontarya.

**Ezkodis :** Nou pale de ekzodis lè yonpakèt ak anpil moun kite yon kote pou yo ale nan yon lòt tèritwa. Yo te itilize mo sa-a anpil nan ka vwayaj pou New York timoun Lawrence yo te fè lè mouvman grèv la tap frappe popilasyon an.

**Sipèvizè :** yon moun ki reskonsab yon depatman ousnon yon gwoup ouvriye nan yon izin.

**Industrial Workers of the World (IWW):** yo te rele sendika sa-a Wooblies tou. Se li ki te pote gwo sipò bay grevis yo. Yo te vrèman ede imigre yo ak tout fammi yo.

**Sendika :** yon òganizasyon ki fonde ak misyon pou l kenbe sale travayè nan yon bon nivo, proteje benefis yo genyen, epi veye aske kondisyon travay yo toujou bon pou ouvriye yo.

**Gwoup Paramilitè :** Yon gwoup sitwayen ki bay tan yo, gratis ti cheri, ke otorite yo kapab rele lè genyen dezò nan lari.

**Ovètay :** tan travay yon amplwaye fè apre lè nòmal jounen an.

**Pikèt:** zòn kote moun ki nan grèv yo kanpe devan yon konpayi. Yo te itilize taktik sa-a premye fwa nan eta New England padan gwo grèv 1912 la.

**Scab:** Yon travayè ki pa anrejistre nan sendika, ki pa patisipe nan grèv, e ki ranplase yon grevis.

**Grèv:** Se yon aktivite kote ouvriye sispann travay jiskaske patwon yo satisfè doleyans yo.

**Sale:** Yon montan lajan yo peye yon anplwaye pou chak èd tan travay.



## Russian

Я не понимаю (Ya nee pahneemayoo)	I don't understand.
Галубчик (galoopchik)	little dove
Hem (nyet)	no
Emo èce (Etta vsyaw!)	That's it!
Miliū (mealy)	dear

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### Ekspresyon nan lang rus

Я не понимаю (Ya nee pahneemayoo)	Mwen pa konprann
Галубчик (galoopchik)	Yon ti Kolomn
Hem (nyet)	Non
Emo èce (Etta vsyaw!)	Se tou
Miliū (mealy)	Monchè, machè

## Italian

Dio mio! Che giornata!	My God! What a day!
Ah, miei piedi!	Ah, my feet!
Ai, é 'na disgraziata.	That's a shame!
Cosa?	What?
Mo ch'pozzu fare?	What am I supposed to do?
tesora	darling
na brava ragazza	a nice girl
mi dispiace	I'm sorry
Buonna notte	Goodnight
Si, certo	Yes, of course
e niente	it's nothing
tanti soldi	a lot of money
aspetta	wait
polizia	police
grazie	thank you
sciopero	strike
Tutto sarà bene!	Everything's going to be fine!
ciao	goodbye
carina	dear
Lasciate le macchine!	Leave the machines!
Più pane!	More bread!

### Ekspresyon nan lang italyen

Dio mio! Che giornata!	Bondye! Ala yon jounen !
Ah, miei piedi!	Wouy! Pye mwen fè m mal!
Ai, é 'na disgraziata.	Se yon wont!
Cosa?	Kisa?
Mo ch'pozzu fare?	Kisa mwen dwe fè?
tesora	Cheri
na brava ragazza	Yon tifi byenelve
mi dispiace	Padon
Buonna notte	Bòn Nwit
Si, certo	Wi, Se sa
e niente	Se pa anyen sa!
tanti soldi	Anpil lajan
aspetta	Tann
polizia	Lapolis
grazie	Mèsi
sciopero	Grèv
Tutto sarà bene	Tout bagay ap rezoud!
ciao	Orevwa
carina	Chè
Lasciate le macchine!	Kanpe travay sou machin yo!
Più pane!	Mwen vle pen ankò!

## Polish

Za niskie wyplaty!	Short pay!
Przestajmy pracowac!	Stop working!
Strajk!	Strike!
Więcej chleba!	More bread!
Witaj moja droga	Hello my dear
Tak	Yes
Kocham cie!	I love you!
Po co?	Why?

### Ekspresyon nan lang polonè

Za niskie wyplaty!	lajan an manke!
Przestajmy pracowac!	Sispann travay!
Strajk!	Koumanse grèv la!
Więcej chleba!	Mwen vle pen ankò!
Witaj moja droga	Honè monchè
Tak	Wi
Kocham cie!	Mwen renmen w
Po co?	Poukisa?

## Union Leaders

**JOSEPH ETTOR**, known as “Smiling Joe,” began leading the IWW Local 20 strikers in Lawrence after receiving a telegram from young Italian striker Angelo Rocco. Ettor urged peace, but violence often followed his speeches, and he was blamed for the actions of others.

**WILLIAM “BIG BILL” HAYWOOD** founded the Industrial Workers of the World, or “one big union,” in 1905. In the Lawrence mill strike, Haywood introduced a new strike tactic: the endless picket line.

## Representatives of the Mills

**AUSTIN P. WADE**, cashier of the Ayer Mill, which was owned by the American Woolen Company. Wade testified on behalf of the mills at the Congressional Hearings. In the play, Wade is played by a woman as “Mrs. Austin P. Wade.”

**WILLIAM WOOD**, president of the American Woolen Company, owned the Ayer and Wood Mills in Lawrence. Because the Wood Mill was the largest in the country, he became a primary target for strikers.

## Child Strikers

**SAMUEL GOLDBERG** began working for the American Woolen Company at age 14. He testified at the Congressional hearings about the wages and long hours at the mills. He also witnessed violence against strikers at the mills and at the train station during the children’s exodus.

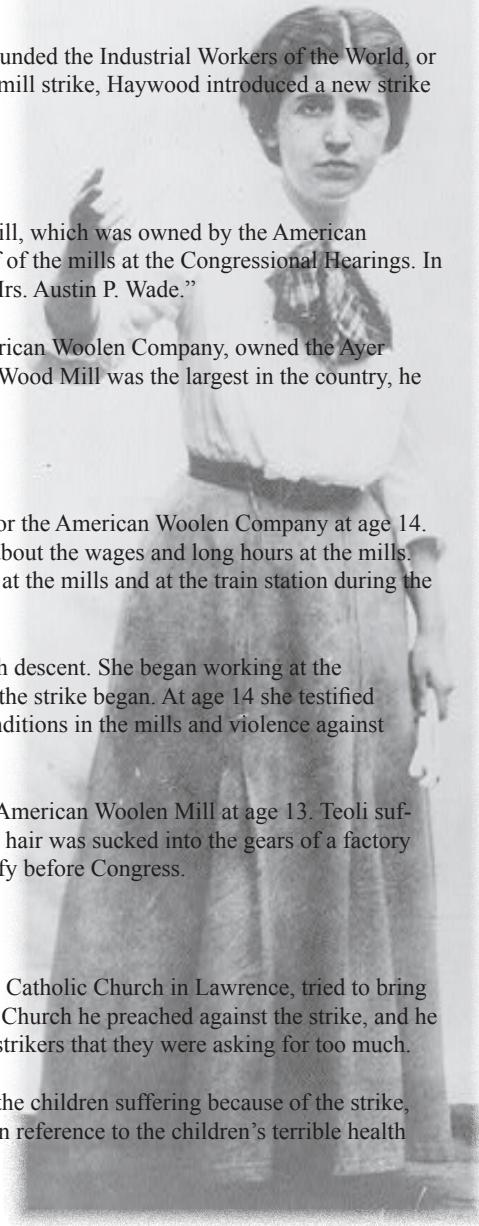
**VICTORIA WENNARYZK** was of Polish descent. She began working at the American Woolen Mill five months before the strike began. At age 14 she testified before Congress about terrible working conditions in the mills and violence against strikers.

**CARMELLA TEOLI** began working for American Woolen Mill at age 13. Teoli suffered a serious injury to her scalp when her hair was sucked into the gears of a factory machine. She was the twelfth child to testify before Congress.

## Community Leaders

**FATHER MILANESE**, acting head of the Catholic Church in Lawrence, tried to bring about a peaceful resolution to the strike. In Church he preached against the strike, and he even went door to door trying to convince strikers that they were asking for too much.

**MARGARET SANGER** nursed many of the children suffering because of the strike, and testified at the congressional hearings in reference to the children’s terrible health under the mill management.



## Chèf sendika

**JOSEPH ETTOR** : Mousye te gen ti non jwèt “Smiling Joe”. Li te pran tèt sendika lokal la (IWW=Industrial Workers of the World) ak 20 grevis ; apre li te jwenn yon telegram de yon jenn grevis, Angelo Rocco. J Ettor te vle pou pwotestasyon an fèt nan lapè. Souvan, deblozay te pete apre lè 1 fin pale. Yo te fe l reskonsab anpil bagay lòt moun fè.

**WILLIAM “BIG BILL” HAYWOOD** te fonde IWW an 1905. Pandan grèv 1912 la nan Lawrence, mousye vin ak yon nouvo taktik : yon pikèt ki pa janm fini

## Reprezantan izin yo

**AUSTIN P. WADE**, te travay tankou kesye nan factory Ayer Mill, ki te pwopriyete Konpayi American Woolen. Wade te temwaye pou faktori a devan Lachanm. Nan piès teyat la, se yon famn ki jwe wòl sa-a sou non Madan Austin P. Wade.

**WILLIAM WOOD**, prezidan konpayi American Woolen, kit e pwopriyete faktori Ayer And Wood Mills nan vil Lawrence. Izin sa-a te pi gwo izin nan peyi. Se pousa tout grevis yo te pote doleans yo devan l.

## Jenn timoun ki te nan grèv la

**SAMUEL GOLBERG** koumanse travay nan konpayi America Woolen li te genyen 14 zan. Li te temwaye devan Lachanm sous zafè sale ak longè lè travay nan izin yo. Li te temwen vyolans yo te fè sou grevis yo devan izin lan ak nan stasyon tren an lè fanmi yo tap eseye voye timoun yo lòt kote.

**VICTORIA WENNARYZK** te yon desandan polonè. Li te koumanse travay nan American Wooden Mill senk mwa avan gwo grèv la koumanse. Li te genyen 14 zan lè 1 te temwaye devan Lachanm sou move kondisyon travay nan faktori a, epi sou vyolans yo te fè sou moun ki tap fè grèv yo.

**CARMELLA TEOLI** koumanse travay pou American Woolen Mills li te genyen 13 rekòt kafe sou tèt li. Teoli te blese grav nan travay la, nan po tèt li, lè yon machin te aspire cheve l . Se te douzièm timoun ki te temwaye sou pwoblèm kondisyon travay nan faktori a, devan yon komite espesyal chanm depite Etazini te mete sou pye.

## Chèf nan kominote a

**FATHER MILANESE**, chef legliz katolik nan vil Lawrence, li te eseye mennen yon solisyen pasifik nan konfli a. Li te preche kont grèv la. Li menm al frape kay moun pou l eseye fè grevis yo chanje lide yo.

**MARGARET SANGER** te yon enfimyè kit e pran swen anpil timoun ki te gen pwoblèm ak zafè grèv la. Li te temwaye tou devan Chanm Depite yo sou kouman move kondisyon travay nan izin te deteryore sante timoun yo.

As members of the U.S. Congress, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the following key players. Write down some questions that you may ask.

**Mrs. Austin P. Wade**, a cashier at the Ayer Mill:

**Carmella Teoli**, a young mill worker on strike, who suffered a head injury while working at the American Woolen Mill:

**Father Milanese**, a Catholic priest who has ministered to the needs of many working families in Lawrence and believes that workers should end the strike:

**Samuel Goldberg**, another young mill worker, also on strike, who witnessed the confrontation between families and militia at the Lawrence train station:

Etan yon manm Lachann Etazini , wa p kapab pose mesye sa yo keksyon sou moun empòtan sa yo. Ekri keksyon w ta vle poze yo.

**Mrs. Austin P. Wade**, te travay tankou kesye nan factory Ayer Mill:

**Carmella Teoli**, yong jenn grevis ki te blese grav pandan l tap travay nan faktori American Woolen Mill:

**Father Milanese**, yon pè katolik ki te okipe de bezwen espirityèl fanmi travayè nan vil Lawrence. Li te kwè ke ouvriye yo te dwe kanpe grèv la :

**Samuel Golberg** te yon lòt jenn travayè faktori ki te nan grèv la. Li te temwen konf-wontasyon nan mitan fanmi ak gwoup paramilitè yo nan stasyon tren an.

**TheatreEspresso** performs at the Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston (in collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Court), and in schools and museums throughout New England. The company thanks Mass Humanities and the following foundations for their generous support.



Cabot Family Charitable Trust, Catherine McCarthy Memorial Trust Fund, Clipper Ship Foundation, Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park, Foley Hoag Foundation, Immigrant City Archives, National Endowment for the Arts, C. Pringle Charitable Foundation, Nathaniel and Elizabeth P. Stevens Foundation, and the White Fund

\*This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, administrated by the Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events.

Since 1992, **TheatreEspresso** has toured its educational dramas to schools, museums, libraries, and courthouses throughout New England. **TheatreEspresso**'s work challenges students to make critical judgments, explore social relationships, reflect on the role of law and human rights in our society, and question accepted truths about the history of America. These plays confront students with complex situations, based on actual historical events, that provoke a variety of opinions and solutions. By asking students to consider themselves participants in the drama, the company engages students in examining contradictory events and testimony in order to reach their decisions.

**TheatreEspresso** does not advocate any one viewpoint, but hopes to compel students to relate historical events to contemporary issues. **TheatreEspresso** is in residence at Wheelock Family Theatre.



For further information, visit our website at  
[www.TheatreEspresso.org](http://www.TheatreEspresso.org)